

DESCRIPTION FOR THE GENERAL PUBLIC

Research in history of science and philosophy is an important part of the study in history of civilization. Medieval science occupies a special place in it, not only because of its role as a transmitter of the Ancient tradition preparing the ground for the flourishing of Modern science but also thanks to its own ingenious and inspiring ideas. The latter aspect has only recently been noticed after centuries of neglect and derision. The value of Medieval thought can be seen especially in some issues, such as the mind-body relationship problem, where Medieval thinkers were able to make considerable contributions. Walter Burley's commentaries on Aristotle's small psychological and physiological treatises, known as *Parva naturalia*, are an interesting High Middle Ages example of those contributions, because their author is skillful in combining the Ancient Aristotelian tradition with his own observations and conclusions concerning the issues in question.

The project research team will undertake novel research concentrated on Walter Burley's views in natural philosophy that will entail preparation of critical editions and thorough analyses of his commentaries devoted to psychological and physiological problems. The knowledge obtained in this way will make it possible to present an overview of the fourteenth century opinions in those issues, still relatively unknown for modern scholars. The studies will broaden the historic knowledge concerning development of our civilization and progress in sciences of man specifically in two aspects: the relation between the Aristotelian world-view and the Christian idea of creation and, especially, its opinion about the special place and role of man, and secondly in the relation between the methodological criteria of science in that period and popular opinions, beliefs and superstitions.